

Q2. What does "compliance" mean?

A2. The word compliance has many meanings, but at the National Security Agency, we try to effect that the following way: we first hire people who understand that lawfulness is a fundamental attribute. We ensure that the people that we bring enjoy the values that we hold near and dear. We then understand what the rules are that pertain to our business, and we try to master the spirit and the mechanics of those rules, in all of the procedures that we bring to bear. We ensure that there's accountability, such that when people take certain actions, when they apply certain authorities, that, at the end of the day, there's a check and a balance on that, to make sure that it worked out exactly the way we intended. And then, as a matter of course, we report on our activities. When, on occasion, we do make a mistake, we report that, and not simply to ourselves, but to those who oversee us, both within the Executive branch and the Legislative branch, and when necessary, to the courts themselves.